



Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

— Making a positive difference through education and service —

January 5, 2005

Dear School Administrator:

During the past five summers, we have scored a portion of the MAP assessments at regional sites within Missouri. We are pleased that hundreds of educators from across the state have served as in-state scorers in the past. The in-state scoring of the MAP has proven to be a very dynamic professional-development opportunity for teachers. As a result of the positive teacher evaluations, we are going to increase the number of scoring sites this year from 9 sites to 12 sites. In addition to the existing scoring sites of Liberty, Lindbergh, Macon, Columbia, Raytown, Rockwood, Sikeston, Springfield, and Webb City, we are adding scoring sites at Hazelwood, Rolla and St. Joseph. Again this year, each scoring site will host two seven-day sessions. The first scoring session is June 7-15, and the second session is June 16-24. At each session, we will train and qualify 24 teachers per site to score the assessments. We will pay scorers a stipend of \$100.00 per day. (We are not able to reimburse for travel expenses.)

One of the enclosures accompanying this letter provides specific information about the scoring process. The additional enclosures are "participant nomination forms." There are twelve nomination forms (one per scoring site). Please copy these enclosures as needed. (The nomination forms will also be posted on the DESE Website on January 10.) An individual teacher may be nominated for no more than two sites. An authorizing administrator must sign the nomination form for full-time certified teachers who apply for a position as a scorer.

We hope you will nominate certified staff from your district to participate in one of the scoring sessions or that you will make this information available to your staff so they can respond to this invitation. Because of the limited number of scoring stations at each site, we may not be able to select all those who are nominated. If this is the case, we will give preference to teachers from the scoring-site region and to teachers from low-achieving schools. (We assume that your teachers will be most interested in working at a nearby site. In the past, some administrators have used professional-development funds to cover their teachers' expenses if they choose to score at distant sites.)

We encourage you to nominate teachers who have taught at least two years in the content area in which they wish to score. We also suggest that, in general, teachers score assessments for the grade span they teach, although middle-school teachers may apply to score high-school tests, and high-school teachers may apply to score middle-school tests. Please confer with any nominee to determine if scoring is an appropriate form of professional development for him/her. (We have found that MAP scoring is a very powerful learning experience for those who volunteer; draftees, as you can imagine, do not reap great benefits.) Also, please verify nominees' availability for the scoring period before submitting their names.

Please return completed nomination forms to the Assessment Section by Monday, February 14, 2005. We will notify all nominees of their selection status by Monday, March 14.

We hope teachers in your district will accept this invitation to participate in the 2005 MAP scoring. Teachers who have scored MAP assessments tell us that it is a valuable professional-development experience.

If you have additional questions, please contact the Assessment Section at 800-845-3545. We look forward to receiving nominations from your district.

Sincerely,

Walt Brown

Walt Brown
Director of Assessment

Enclosures